

In re Application of

SPRADLING et al.

Appln. No. 09/358,937

Filed: July 23, 1999



Group Art Unit: 1646

Examiner: J. Andres

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

FOR: METHOD FOR MAINTENANCE AND PROPAGATION  
OF GERMLINE STEM CELLS USING MEMBERS OF THE  
TGF- $\beta$  FAMILY OF GROWTH FACTORS

\* \* \*

November 21, 2000

**REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND AMENDMENT**

Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action (Paper No. 10) mailed on August 29, 2000, Applicants elect with traverse the claims of Group I (claims 1-24, 28-31, 33 and 35-36) for examination. Furthermore, the species listed on page 4 of the Action are elected: 3(b) "*in vivo* methods" and 4(c)(i) "transduction with nucleic acid" and further DPP. Claims 1-2, 4-18, 23-24, 28-31, 33 and 35-36 read on the elected species.

Traversal is on the grounds that the claims of Group I and Group II should be examined together because examination of Group II would necessarily require examination of Group I. The limitations of claim 1 are incorporated into all of the claims of Group II. Thus, it would not constitute an undue burden to examine claims 1-31, 33 and 35-36 in this application because, for example, search and examination of claim 25 would necessarily require search and examination of claim 1.

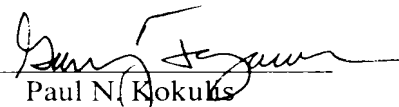
Applicants respectfully request an explanation for the division of species in ¶4 because they do not appear to be mutually exclusive.

Finally, the Examiner's attention is drawn to the information disclosure state-ments (IDS) submitted by Applicants on December 14, 1999; January 14, 2000; February 16, 2000; and July 28, 2000. Consideration of the information in the IDS and the references cited therein is respectfully requested, along with return of an initialed copy of each Form PTO-1449 to confirm such consideration.

Examination on the merits is earnestly solicited. If any further information is required, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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